

FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES -- JULY 2013

70 Years Ago - 1943

July 7: Adolph Hitler assigned highest priority to V-2 program.

65 Years Ago - 1948

July 13: First Convair MX-774 test missile built under the ballistic missile program, test fired.

55 Years Ago - 1958

July 2: White House decision for manned spaceflight program to go to civilian space agency, Washington, D.C.

July 29: President Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act, Washington, D.C.

July 26: Explorer 4 launched by Jupiter C, 11:00 a.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

50 Years Ago - 1963

July 26: Syncom 2 launched by Thor Delta, 10:33 a.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla. First operational communications satellite in geosynchronous orbit.

45 Years Ago - 1968

July 4: Explorer 38 launched by Thor Delta, 1:26 p.m., EDT, Vandenberg AFB.

40 Years Ago - 1973

July 16: Itos-E launched aboard a Delta rocket from Vandenberg AFB, CA at 00:00 UTC.

July 21: Mars 4 launched by Proton K, 1931 UTC, Baikonur, USSR.

July 25: Mars 5 launched by Proton K, 1856 UTC, Baikonur, USSR.

July 28: Skylab 3 launched by Saturn 1B, 7:11 a.m., EDT, KSC. Second manned visit to Workshop. Crew: Alan L. Bean, Owen K. Garriott, and Jack R. Lousma. Landed Sep 25, 1973.

35 Years Ago - 1978

July 14: European Space Agency (ESA) GEOstationary Scientific Satellite 2 (GEOS 2), designed to measure changes in Earth's magnetic field, launched by Delta, 6:43 a.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Aug 8: Pioneer Venus 2 or Pioneer 13 launched by Atlas-Centaur, 3:33 a.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

30 Years Ago - 1983

July 14: Navstar 8 (GPS satellite) launched by Atlas F at 10:21:00 UTC, Vandenberg AFB.

July 28: Telstar 3A launched by Delta, 6:49 p.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla. First Telstar owned by AT&T to be used as an operational spacecraft.

25 Years Ago - 1988

July 7: Phobos 1 (Soviet Mars Orbiter to study the surface composition of the Martian satellite Phobos). Twin of Phobos 2. Launch aboard Proton-K rocket from Baikonur at 17:38:04 UTC.

July 12: Phobos 2 (Soviet Mars Orbiter to study the surface composition of the Martian satellite Phobos). Twin of Phobos 1. Launch by Proton K from Baikonur at 17:01:43 UTC. The satellite gathered data until communication was lost a couple months after it reached Mars.

20 Years Ago – 1993

July 1: Russia launched Soyuz TM-17 aboard a Soyuz rocket from Baikonur at 14:32:58 UTC. Ferry flight to Mir space station. Crew: Vasili V. Tsibliyev, Aleksandr A., Serebrov, and Jean-Pierre Haigneré (France).

July 1: The Hubble Space Telescope first captured images of fragments of comet P/Shoemaker-Levy 9 with its planetary camera. One year later, the comet fragments collided with Jupiter. This was the first observed collision of bodies in our solar system.

15 Years Ago – 1998

July 3: Japan launched its first mission to orbit Mars, Nozomi (Hope) - formerly known as Planet B aboard an M-5 rocket from the Kagoshima Space Center, 18:12 UTC. Built to study the atmosphere and ionosphere of Mars using 14 instruments from several nations. One of these instruments was the NASA Neutral Mass Spectrometer.

10 Years Ago – 2003

July 8: Mars Explorer Rover-B, also known as MER-B and as “Opportunity” launched on a Delta 2 rocket from Cape Canaveral at 03:18 UTC. It is an exact copy of MER-A, and carries the same set of instruments. The landing site for MER-B is known as Meridiani Planum.

July 29: The 1,000 consecutive day of people living and working aboard the International Space Station.

July 30: Seven nanosatellites: Cubesat XI-IV Japanese; Canadian (University of Toronto) student-built CANX 1; Danish (Aalborg University) AAU Cubesat; American Quakesat; (Tokyo Institute of Technology) CUTE 1 Japanese; Canadian (CSA) MOST; Danish (Danish Technological University) DTUosat; and Mimosa a Czech minisatellite were launched by a Rokot rocket from Plesetsk at 14:15 UTC.

5 Years Ago – 2008

July 31: NASA announces that the Mars Phoenix Lander has confirmed the existence of water on Mars.